

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00550 251126Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-05 /015 W
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R 250912Z JUL 74O
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1374

UNCLAS MANAMA 0550

E.O. 11652:HN/A

TAGS : AFSP, APER, BA

SUBJECT : LANGUAGE DESIGNATED POSITIONS

REF : STATE 158194

1. UNLIKE SOMZ OTHER POSTS IN THIS AREA WE ARE OPERATING IN A SOCIETY WHERE ENGLISH IS VIRTUALLY THE SECOND LANGUAGE. ONCE WE HAVE FULLY ESTABLISHED LOCAL STAFF TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER CAPABILITY, I PERSONALLY SEE NO COMPELLINGHJUSTIFICATION FOR DESIGNATING EITHER OF TWO FSO JOBS PRESENTLY ESTABLISHED, OR ANY NEW ONCES COMTEMPLATED IN NEAR FUTURE, AS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRING ARABIC LANGUAGE CAPABILITY.

2. A SOUND KNOWLEDGE OF ARABIC WOULD OF COURSE BE HELPFUL TO ALL OUR OFFICERS, AND ALL OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, WE WOULD PREFER AN FSO WITH 3/3 ARABIC OR BETTECTFOR EACH JOB. WITH OUR LITTLE STAFF, HOWEVER,HWE MUST HAVE MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE FROM EACH OFFICER ASSIGNED, AND IN MAKING ASSIGNMENT SELECTIONS FOR ANY OF OUR POSITIONS WE TRUST PERSONNEL WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE MOST CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE FUNCTIONAL EXPERIENCE AND,HMOST IMPORTANT, PERSONAL QUALITIES, OF CANDIDATES UNDER CONSIDERATION. THEN, IF WE SHOULD BE FACED WITH AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES IN TERMS OF EQUALLY HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EAGER CANDIDATES, LET US HAVZ THE "ARABIST", BUT ONLY THEN. (TO A LESSER DEGREE PERSIAN IS SIMILARLY USEFUL.)O

3. PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER MAIN STUDIED ARABIC FOR SIX MONTHS AT FSI PRIOR TO PROCEEDING TO LAST (WND HIS FIRST) ASSIGNMZNT.O THIS BACKGROUND IS OF SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO POST OPERATIONS HERE. IN THE FUTURE, WHEN EXIGENCIES OF ASSIGNMENT PROCESS PERMIT, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF OFFICERS BEING ASSIGNED HERE COULD HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00550 251126Z

SIX MONTHS OF FSI ARABIC TRAINING PRIOR TO ARRIVWL; BUT AGAIN THIS

SHOULD NOT BE OVER-RIDING CONSIDERATION.H
TWINAM

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Disposition Event:
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